Inside Burlington



VOLUME 9 / Summer 2010

The City's Official Newsletter

State of the City Address By Mayor Robert Miller

Our population growth has slowed in recent years, and last year we had a very low number of new residential building permits issued. New residential building was stagnant as the economic downturn resulted in a decrease in residential property values of two percent. This decrease was somewhat offset by increases in commercial and industrial property of two percent. The RexCon industrial development in the Burlington Manufacturing and Office Park was completed, along with the new McDonalds, the Pick N' Save store, and the new CPI store.

This year we are expected to receive \$729,000 in total Shared Revenue and Expenditure Restraint payments from the State of Wisconsin, a decrease of \$85,719 from last year's payment of \$815,032. We will also receive \$26,000 less in Local Transportation Aids and \$23,000 less in Connecting Highway Aid. Connecting Highway Aids will continue to decrease as the City assumes control of State Highways 36, 83 and 11 upon the opening of the Burlington Bypass.

The two Tax Incremental Districts (TID) are doing far better than projected. TID 4, which was projected to run until 2023 could be closed as soon as 2012. TID 3 which was scheduled to close in 2020 could be closed as soon as 2017. The earlier closing dates are based on no new growth in either TID.

As we have seen in the past with the growth along STH 36, a new development tends to attract more growth. The addition and remodeling of Veterans Terrace has lead to the addition of a hotel, parking ramp and retail stores downtown. The hotel will complement the downtown area by providing guests to our city a place to stay within walking distance. In addition the hotel will not have food service, nor a lounge or beauty salon. Guests who desire these services are within walking distance of those services located in our downtown area. The parking ramp will be a three story structure with 250 parking stalls. Parking will be open to anyone wishing to use the ramp at no charge. This ramp will double the amount of available parking for downtown. The retail store fronts will provide 45,000 square feet of new retail space, replacing some aging buildings, and allow for more retail stores to locate in our downtown.

All financial targets have been met or exceeded for the 2010 Budget, which is reflective of the City's commitment to Maintaining a sound fiscal policy with an

emphasis on establishing fiscally sound reserve funds. This year's budget would not have been possible without the tremendous effort of our Department Heads and their staff, as well as a dedicated City Council.

To further expand this year's budget the methane burner at the Wastewater Plant is up and running.

creating electric power, which is being used to help power the Wastewater plant. The Street Department will be exploring the possibility of using LED street lighting, which will further lower the City's electrical costs.

The sound 2010 budget addresses the pressing needs of the city. It maintains the current level of services, funds the new Department of Public Works, Water and Wastewater Facility and increases the General Fund balance.

Just what is an Annual Budget? An Annual Operating Budget is intended to do several things. Among them is provide a basis of accountability to the taxpayers for the investment of their tax dollars.

- Reflect Common Council policies as the representatives of the citizens of Burlington.
- Serve as an operating plan for the new fiscal year.
- Provide fiscal policy direction to the city staff

One question that I hear asked often is just where my tax dollars go. Using a property assessed in value of \$200,000, the total property tax bill is \$4,110 dollars. The City's portion is \$1,504. The \$1,504 is spent by the City in this way:

- \$76.98 is spent on General Government
- \$79.91 goes to Administration & Finance
- \$588.33 goes to Police
- \$64.06 goes to Solid Waste
- \$111.12 goes to Fire
- \$50.08 goes to Building Inspections
- \$380.35 goes to Streets
- \$112.70 goes to Parks
- \$40.50 goes for Miscellaneous

2010 will be another year of the City moving forward. Kane Street will be rebuilt with the help of a \$1.5 million ARRA grant. Hampton Hometown Hotel will be built. The City's new



250 stall parking garage will be constructed, and the land will be cleared to allow for the construction of the new retail stores on Chestnut Street. In addition the new Department of Public Works Combined Facility will be constructed. M&I bank will begin construction this spring and should be moving into the new building sometime this fall, as well a new lights installed at Beaumont Field.

2010 is going to be a challenging year for our city. There are a lot of changes that will happen this year, most of which are beyond our control. The new health care bill that Washington passed will impact the city; we just do not know as of now how much that impact is going to cost. The economy is still slow in recovering and it appears that the changes and investments made Washington are not working to increase the recovery as fast as was hoped for. The State is still having budget problems and will be looking to increase their revenues in order to balance their budget. Where the increase in State revenues will come from as of now is not known. I look forward to the challenges that 2010 will bring, and I am confidant that the City Council and the City Staff are prepared and more than capable to meet these challenges to keep this great City moving forward.

In closing, all of the hard work of our administrator, staff and Council in keeping costs under control, and by being fiscally responsible has resulted in our Standard & Poors' bond rating being upgraded to AA-, from A+. It is a pleasure working with the Staff and Council of this City, and this upgrade confirms that all of the work that has been done so far has not gone unnoticed.

Thank-you.

White Mille

City Bond Rating Upgraded by Standard & Poor's



Standard and Poor's, a provider of independent credit ratings, increased the city's bond rating from an A+ to a AA- due the city's demonstrated and consistent financial performance. The upgraded bond rating allows the city to get good interest rates on debt, and reflects the Common Council's commitment to sound fiscal management policies.

Recently the city issued \$6.4 million in debt for the construction of the combined Department of Public Works facility and downtown redevelopment projects, and received a 3.24 percent interest rate.

The City is Living 'Green'

Being environmentally conscientious is not only a recent trend but a much needed habit to protect the environment for future generations, live healthier and be economically savvy. The City of Burlington has been 'going green' for some time now within all of the departments. Below is a list of some of the ways we are helping to save the environment:

- Collection of mercury-based products including thermometers, light bulbs & liquid mercury
- · Collection of oil, antifreeze and lead acid batteries
- · Collection of printer ink, cell phones, pharmaceuticals and Clean Sweep Programs
- · Collection of leaves, brush and city use of the Compost Site
- An extensive city-wide bi-weekly recycling program offered to residents
- Use of methane for energy at the Wastewater Treatment Plant saving about \$100/mo.
- · Biosolids Management Program with the WWTP that sells biosolids to local farmers
- · Installation of low-votage, energy efficient lighting at Beaumont Field
- Open space and landscaping requirements for new developments and subdivisions
- Stormwater runoff management programs to minimize erosion
- · Creation of bike paths throughout the city
- · Rain barrels for sale by the Water Department
- Conversion to LED lighting in the traffic lights
- · Ordinance to allow electric cars in the city
- · Burlington Farmers Market offering farm-fresh & organic products
- Cemetery that offers green burial options
- · Recycling of construction materials for city projects

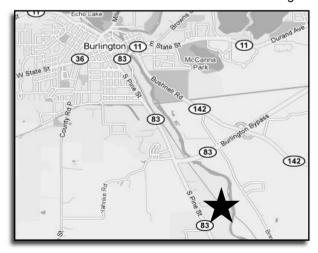


The city is always looking for ways to conserve energy, preserve the environment and save the taxpayers money. In addition to the items listed above, the Public Works Combined Facility will be built with energy efficient elements. Please take part in our initiative to go 'green' in your daily activities for future generations.

The Department of Public Works Combined Facility Breaks Ground

The Public Works Department and city officials along with the architects and contractors involved with the project celebrated the official Ground Breaking for the Department of Public Works Combined Facility on May 13

Construction began May 20 and is scheduled to be completed by January, 2011. The facility will be situated just south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 6551 S. Pine Street. Once completed, the Street and Park Department will move from its current location on Milwaukee Avenue to the new building.







Pets In The City

up and citizens are out and about enjoying the fresh air. Recently it has become a problem at several area parks and on city sidewalks that dog owners are not cleaning up after their pets. Simply cleaning up after your dog in public places and on private property not only helps keep areas clean and hygienic, but failure to do so leaves a mess for someone else to clean up, or step in.

Health concerns are also a big motivation to clean up after your dog. There are many parasites that can be transmitted to humans. We hope you enjoy walking your dog, but please remember to take the necessary steps to keep our city clean.

he weather has finally warmed Please note as well, that dogs are not allowed in city parks and baseball fields per city ordinance. They are however allowed at the Dog Park located at 480 S. Calumet Street.

> The area is fenced off and the dogs are allowed to run "leash-free". Aggressive dogs are not allowed in the park due to the safety of other visitors. Pets must wear collars and taas, be fullv vaccinated and licensed.



Brush Pick Up & Composting

Brush pick up continues on Compost Site is open from the second and fourth April 1 through November 30. Wednesday of each month. Please call the Department of Public Works at 763-2060 to attendant on site at all times have your address placed on when the site is open. the Brush Pick Up List. You must call no later than the Tuesday before the second or fourth Wednesday. Public Works crews only pick up brush from addresses that have been called in. You may also bring your brush to the Compost site durina operational hours. The City

The site is free of charge to City residents. There is an

Compost Site Hours

Sunday 12 to 6 PM Tuesday 3 to 8 PM Thursday 12 to 8 PM Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM

Closed Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Pedestrian Safety

Please remember per state law that drivers must pedestrians the vield to in following circumstances:

- When the driver is crossing a sidewalk or entering and alley or driveway;
- When the pedestrian has started crossing at any marked crosswalk;
- · Drivers are not allowed to pass any vehicle that has yielded to a pedestrian (or bicyclist).

Pedestrians have their own responsibilities. They must yield to drivers when they are not crossing at an intersection or marked crosswalk and they cannot dart into a crosswalk if a vehicle would not have sufficient time to yield to a pedestrian.

Rain Barrels are still available at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 6551 S. Pine Street, for \$45 each. Call 539-3646 for more information.

New Lights Installed at Beaumont Field

Beaumont Field recently received an upgrade, as new lights were installed The new lights are energy efficient and provide a safer playing environment for teams using the field.

The lights replace the fixtures that by some estimates were installed more than fifty years ago. The project was made possible by an agreement between the Burlington Park Board, Common Council and Baseball 2000. Baseball 2000 is raising funds to contribute \$40,000 to the project. The total cost of the project was \$145,000.



Protect Your Valuables & Your Vehicle

any communities suffer thefts from autos. Victims of these crimes suffer not only personal loss of items that were contained within the vehicle but oftentimes • there is damage to the automobile itself. Since thefts from autos are generally committed for the purpose of obtaining something of value, by making your vehicle appear to be less fruitful, or more difficult to attack, a criminal generally will move on to another "easier" opportunity.

The process of making your property less •



desirable to a criminal is called "target hardening". Owners of vehicles should consider the following target hardening tips when parking their vehicles on public lots, private lots or drives, and even in underground community parking garages.

Do the following to help protect your valuables as well as your vehicle:

- · Lock your car doors and close your windows.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. If you do, make sure they are kept out of plain sight - when possible hide items in the

trunk before you get to the location you intend to park.

- Don't leave your GPS system, purses, or other items of value on your front seat or dash even when you are operating the vehicle. Stepping out of your vehicle, even briefly, could result in these items being taken by a thief who guickly enters the passenger door of your car.
- If you have a garage, use it. Many thefts from vehicles occur during the night while parked right in front of your own home.
- Don't leave a garage door opener on the dashboard or front seat of you vehicle. Place it in your glove box, hide it, or take it with you. Breaking into your auto will provide a thief with access to your garage if the vehicle is parked in front of your home at the time of attack.
- Try to park in a well lighted area.
- Mark items for identification purposes with permanent markings. Typically engravings are best for this.
- Do not leave identification items such as driver's license. vehicle registration, mail, etc, in your vehicle.

Should you become a victim of a theft from vour auto, or any crime, contact the Police Department immediately at 342-1100 or

Summer Fire Safety

With the summer months finally here. many of us will be firing up our grills and sitting around those warm campfires. Here are some safety tips to keep you and your family safe this summer season.

Grilling safety

Check grill hoses for cracking, holes, brittleness and leaks. If you find a leak, immediately shut off the grill. Never use a grill indoors. Use your grill at least 10 feet away for any portion of your house or building. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Grills used in areas where there is no ventilation will accumulate carbon monoxide to levels that may cause serious injury or death. When using lighter fluid, only use a small amount to avoid an explosion.

Camp fire safety

Construct a camp fire ring made of rocks. Keep the ring under 3 feet in diameter with a ten foot clearance around the perimeter. Never use flammable liquids to light the fire and keep children back from the fire. Recreational fires are permitted with verbal permission from the Fire Department. You must call in and obtain permission on the day you wish to have a recreational fire at 763-7842. Recreational fires are only permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. and must be completely extinguished by 11 p.m.

Please remember burning vard waste is no longer permitted. Yard waste can be taken to the City Compost Site.

Watch your mailbox for information to purchase tickets to the Annual Fireman's Dance on Sunday, July 4!

Do You Need A Permit For That?

I ow that summer is upon us, many home and business owners will take part in remodeling projects. More often than not a building permit is required for construction-related projects.

A permit protects the homeowner and the future occupants of the home. "Pulling a permit" is just the beginning of your relationship with the Building Inspector. Look for him to stop by at key stages of your project to make sure your work is compliant with codes and done correctly.

The following is a list of common construction projects that require a building permit, however, this list is not all-inclusive:

Furnace & Air Conditioning

 \Rightarrow Decks & Porches

 \Rightarrow Demolition work

 \Rightarrow Additions

 \Rightarrow Electrical work

 \Rightarrow Fences

 \Rightarrow

Handrails & stairs \Rightarrow Plumbing

 \Rightarrow Pool construction or renovation

 \Rightarrow Roof repairs or re-roofing

 \Rightarrow Sheds & Accessory Buildings

 \Rightarrow

Window replacements (if original \Rightarrow dimensions are being altered).

If you have a project planned and don't see it here, call (262)342-1164 for information before starting your work. Obtaining the appropriate the permit(s) is property responsibility. owner's The Building Inspection office is located in City Hall at 300 N. Pine Street.

Summer Children Programs at the Public Library

"MAKE A SPLASH" AT THE BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY!



Kick-Off!

Kids and kids-at-heart are invited to "make a splash" in Wehmhoff Park next to the library on Friday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to Funded by the Friends of the Burlington Public Library, this event will kick off our Summer Reading Program with Gene Covelli's "Kids Are People, Too" and "Songs of Yesteryear". You'll dance, laugh, play instruments and games, hula-hoop, eat popcorn, and have the chance to win raffle prizes throughout the show. Warning: you may get splashed!

Read!

We're all wet at the library this summer with "Make a Splash" as our Summer Reading Program theme. To join the fun, register and pick up your reading logs June 14 - 18. Record your reading hours from June 21 through July 31, and earn prizes along the way!

Catch a Wave!

Every Wednesday June 23 through Aug. 11 from noon to 1 p.m. you can Catch a Wave in the Park at the Wehmhoff Park gazebo. Local performers, entertainers, and artisans will provide music, activities, and just plain fun for kids. No registration is necessary: bring your lunch!

Story Wagon

These programs are offered free of charge on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. and are provided by the Lakeshores Library Please check the Burlington System. Public Library's website at www.burlingtonlibrary.com/youth events for any changes in dates or performers.

June 25: Uncle Mike's Pint Size Polkas July 2: Getting Excited about Science

July 16: The Bassmeister

Story Time

Beginning June 22, Ms. Joy will hold Story Time twice a week from 10:30 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays will be a 30-minute session for children 4 years and up. Wednesdays will focus on children 3 years and under and last about 20 minutes. To register, please call Ms. Joy at (262) 342-1140. The goal of story time is to encourage children to develop an interest in books and reading. Come listen to a story and sing some songs!

Hey Kids - WannaWatchaMovie?

This summer our free movie series for children continues Mondays, June 21, 28 the latest releases! Visit the library or www.burlingtonlibrary.com for titles and more information. Registration is required (so we know how much popcorn to make!).

Wii Gaming

Wii Gaming for youths continues every Thursday from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. registration is necessary; please note play is in a round-robin style.

Preschool Fun with Love, Inc.

"Building Blocks: Around the World" with Linda Breuer from Love, Inc. will be offered Tuesdays, Aug. 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 11-11:45 a.m. This program is geared toward parents and their babies, toddlers. and preschoolers. Music from other countries, book readings, movement games and social playtime are introduced to provide families opportunities to engage in the "Building Blocks" of early learning. There is no cost for this program, but registration is recommended. To register, contact Linda Breuer, Children's Resources at Love, Inc. at (262)763-6226.



All programs at the Burlington Public Library are free and open to the public.



Summer Adult Programs at the Public Library

Water Your Mind @ Burlington Library

Don't let the kids have all the fun this summer! Participate in the summer reading program for adults, Water Your Mind @ Your Library. Sign up at the reference desk beginning June 14 to receive a registration packet. Each book you read or listen to on CD, cassette or mp3 lets you to enter a drawing for a cool weekly prize. Drawings are on Mondays beginning June 21 with a Grand Prize Drawing on August 2. You can also win a prize for completing a Scavenger Hunt Bingo or a Read A Book Bingo. Look for more programs and activities to be announced later. For more information call 763-7623, email pburling@burlington.lib.wi.us, or stop in at the library at 166 E. Jefferson.



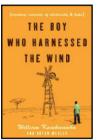
Adult Book Discussion Group

The Burlington Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group is ready for summer and easy livin'. Use that leisure time to read these good books and enjoy stimulating discussions. Right now our Book Club is heating up with our Kindles, part of our latest LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant. We are enjoying this newest technology in electronic readers. Join us and get a chance to use a Kindle.



June 21

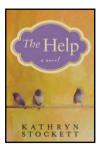
We discuss HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET by Jamie Ford. What was it like to grow up Chinese in America in the early 1940's with a father who wanted you to only be an "American". Your best friend is Japanese and as historical events unfurl, she is eventually sent to an internment camp. Many years later, in a rundown hotel's dusty basement, the belongings of many of these Japanese families are found. Will Henry's search find a long-lost object whose value he cannot begin to measure?



July 19

We discuss THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba. William was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery. It was also a place withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills and he dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village. This true story is movingly documented in this book. See an interview of William on YouTube.com, Just type in Kamkwamba and several movies of William are available. We have a special

guest for this discussion. Diane Kaufmann, Chippewa Falls, Wi who is the ELCA Northwest Wisconsin Synod coordinator for Malawi will have pictures, objects, and stories of her many visits to Malawi.



August 23

We discuss one of the hottest books of 2009-10: THE HELP by Kathryn Stockett. Meet 3 unforgettable women: 22 year old Skeeter, newly graduated from Ole Miss and no ring on her finger; Aibileen, a black maid, raising her 17th white child. She has lost her enthusiasm since losing her son, who died while his bosses looked the other way and finally, Minny: short, fat, and the sassiest black woman in Mississipi but also one of the best cooks. It is Mississippi in 1962 and these three women come together for a

clandestine project that will eventually define them and the Civil Rights movement.

All discussions are at 7 p.m. in the basement meeting room. No registration is required. Books are available at the Public Library.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE



Be sure to visit the annual Burlington Public Library Book Sale on July 29 through 31 during Maxwell Street Days at the library. There will be plenty of books for children and adults. both paperback and hard cover.

Burlington City Hall 300 N. Pine Street Burlington, WI 53105 (262) 342-1161



CITY OF BURLINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

Robert Miller, Mayor (262) 342-1161

First District Aldermen

Bob Prailes (262) 763-5194

Ed Johnson (262) 763-8321

Second District Aldermen

Peter Hintz (262) 763-7063

Jim Prailes (262) 763-7322

Third District Aldermen

Tom Vos, Council President (262) 763-2213

Steve Rauch (262) 767-1910

Fourth District Aldermen

Katie Simenson (262) 767-0409

Jeff Fischer (262) 763-8341

Questions and concerns regarding this newsletter can be directed to Megan Johnson at (262)342-1161 or to mjohnson@burlington-wi.gov

Summer Announcements

<u>June 5, July 3, August 7 & September 4</u> - Meet with the Mayor! The Mayor will hold open office hours for the public from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday of each month at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street.

<u>May through October</u> - The Burlington Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. In Wehmhoff Square.

<u>June 13</u> - Burlington Cycling Classic from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Downtown Burlington. Call RDS Cycling at (815) 479-1924 for more information.

<u>June 27</u> - Racine County Day at Miller Park at 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through the Chamber of Commerce. Call 763-6044 for more information.

July 4 - Fireworks at dusk and the Annual Fireman's Dance in Echo Park.

<u>July 12</u> - Heat Stroke 100 Bike Ride through Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties from 6 to 9 a.m. Contact the Community Education Department at 763-0219 for more information.

<u>July 30 & 31</u> - Maxwell Street Days. Sidewalk sales, arts & crafts, music, food and much more! Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 763-6044 for more information.

August 29 - Planes, Trains & Automobiles Fly-In at the Burlington Airport from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

September 6 - Labor Day. City Offices closed.

CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

City Hall - 300 N. Pine St. - 342-1161

Robert Miller Mayor
Kevin Lahner City Administrator
Steve DeQuaker Treasurer
Beverly R. Gill City Clerk
Megan Johnson Asst. to the City Administrator
Patrick Scherrer Building Inspector

Fire Department - 165 E. Washington St. - 763-7842

Richard Lodle Fire Chief
Richard Peterson Deputy Chief
Daniel Rueter Assistant Chief
John Niederer Fire Inspector

Public Library - 166 E. Jefferson St. - 342-1130

Gayle Falk

Joy Schnupp

Judy Rockwell

Carole Rybarczyk

Library Director

Youth Services Director

Reference Librarian

Circulation Supervisor

Police Department - 224 E. Jefferson St. - 342-1100

Peter Nimmer Police Chief
Mark Anderson Assistant Chief / Lieutenant
David A. Krupp Detective Sergeant
Rodney Thurin Detective
Michael J. Madsen
John Fisher Sergeant

DPW-Streets/Parks - 824 Milwaukee Ave. - 763-2060

Richard Pieters
Tom Koch
Aaron DeGrave
Judy Gerulat
Supervisor - Streets & Parks
Street Department Foreman
Park Department Foreman
Engineering Technician

DPW-Water/ Wastewater - 6551 S. Pine St. - 539-3646

Connie Wilson
Robert Wilson
Glenn Harjes

Public Works Director
Foreman
Foreman

Municipal Court - 300 N. Pine St. - 342-1129

Debra Dillon Municipal Court Clerk

Recycling Collection Schedule

- · Week of May 31- June 4
- Week of June 14 18
- Week of June 28 July 2
- Week of July 12 16
- Week of July 26 30
- Week of August 9 13
- Week of August 23 27
- Week of Sept. 6 10
- Week of Sept. 20 24

June Meetings

6/1 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

6/1 5:30 p.m. - CDA

6/2 6:30 p.m.- Police & Fire Cmn.

6/8 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission

6/15 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

6/17 6:30 p.m. - Park Board

6/22 4:00 p.m. - Library Board

6/24 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee

6/24 6:30 p.m. - HPC

July Meetings

7/6 5:30 p.m.- CDA

7/6 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

7/7 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Cmn.

7/13 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission

4/15 6:30 p.m. - Park Board

4/20 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

4/22 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee

4/22 6:30 p.m. - HPC

8/3

4/27 6:30 p.m. - Library Board

August Meetings

5:30 p.m.- CDA

8/3 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

8/4 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Cmn.

8/10 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission

8/17 6:30 p.m. - Common Council

8/19 6:30 p.m. - Park Board

8/24 4:00 p.m. - Library Board

8/26 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee

8/26 6:30 p.m. - HPC